REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 13 have been amended. Claims 1 and 13 are independent. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I.   Amendment

Support for the Amendment can be found in the specification at, for example page 5, line 33 to page 6, line 7 and page 7, lines 11-22. No new matter is added.

II.   Interview

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Chang in the December 8, 2008 telephone interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

III.   Objection to Amendment

As acknowledged during December 8, 2008 telephone interview, Applicants confirm that the Examiner is correct in reviewing the claims filed in the June 16, 2006 preliminary amendment. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

IV.   Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §101

The Office Action rejects claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §101. As discussed during the December 8, 2008 telephone interview, claims 1 and 13 have been amended to obviate the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

V.   The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,974,165 to Locke et al. (Locke) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,519,860 to Bieg et al. (Bieg). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 13 recite, *inter alia*, "combining the first data set with the second data set such that each element of the two sets are associated with the same real time

or synchronisation signal." The applied references do not disclose or render obvious the recited features of Independent claims 1 and 13.

The present application relates to a system and method for relating measurement data made by a measurement device with positional data from the machine by the use of synchronisation signals. Thus, the present application enables two sets of data which are taken over a time period of the measuring process to be related together.

Locke discloses the real time feedback of workpiece dimensions so the desired geometry is machined. A z-axis position of the tool is established from a z-axis scale 48. When a match occurs between the scale 48 and a table value, a latch command is sent to read all sensors. See col. 5, lines 36-40 of Locke. These sensors comprise the dimension measurement 46 and optionally a thread profile measurement 50. See col. 8, lines 29-33. Any difference between the measured dimension and the required dimension results in an error signal being produced, which is then applied to the tool driving means to make the necessary adjustment to obtain the desired dimension. See col. 2, lines 45-54; col. 5, lines 41-48, col. 6, lines 34-40 and col. 8, lines 24-39. The desired data is prepared and provided in a table which is referred to during the process. See col. 4, line 63 - col. 4, line 5.

In summary, Locke discloses a method of in-process part inspection comprising monitoring one set of data and comparing the one set of data to a tabulated value provided by the part program. Once the value of the one set of data coincides with the tabulated value, a latch signal is sent so that positional information from all sensors is taken at that instant. If there is a difference between the positional information taken at that latch moment and a stored value, an error signal is sent, for example, in a feedback signal, to cause adjustment in the machining process to compensate for that error. There is no disclosure of a synchronisation signal or the synchronisation of two data sets over a period of time. In other

words, Locke does not disclose combining the first data set with the second data set such that each element of the two sets are associated with the same real time or synchronisation signal.

Bieg fails to cure the deficiencies of Locke. Thus, the applied references, alone or in combination, fail to teach or render obvious that "combining the first data set with the second data set such that each element of the two sets are associated with the same real time or synchronisation signal" as recited in independent claims 1 and 13.

The dependent claims are allowable at least due to their dependence on allowable independent claims 1 and 13 as well as the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

VI.   Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Obert H. Chu
Registration No. 52,744

JAO:OHC/jth

Attachment: Petition for Extension of Time

Date: January 29, 2009

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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